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United States Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOPEKA MAN CONVICTED ON FIREARMS CHARGE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Michael Eric Moten**, 35, Topeka, Kansas, was found guilty on August 27, 2003, following a two day jury trial of one count of being a felon and an unlawful user of marijuana and cocaine in possession of a firearm.

Melgren stated that according to trial testimony, the Topeka Police Narcotics Squad executed a search warrant on February 7, 2002, at Moten's residence and found a Glock semi-automatic pistol in his bedroom. Although the pistol was originally purchased by Moten's wife, the jury determined that Moten had access that rose to the level of possession of the firearm.

Moten had previous felony convictions and admitted that he was an unlawful user and addicted to marijuana and cocaine.

Moten faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for December 1, 2003, before U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department in this investigation. "Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, we will aggressively prosecute those individuals, such as felons and drug users, who are not permitted to possess firearms and attempt to circumvent the law by having a family member either purchase a gun for them or allow them access to a firearm," Melgren said.